

ANGLESEA FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

of the
ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. INC.

NEWSLETTER No. 1

JULY 1999

Welcome to the first newsletter of the **Anglesea Family History Group**. A particular welcome to the members of the **Historical Society** we hope you enjoy reading about our group and our particular interests.

About three months ago a group of nine people interested in family history met to look into the possibility of forming a group. Of those people there was a cross-section of family history expertise, ranging from the very experienced to raw beginners. Everybody was very keen, so it was decided to keep meeting. A few more people attended so it looked as if we were under way. The group was formalised with Pat Hughes elected Chairperson and John Parsons as Minute Secretary.

The two main issues were to find a home to raise money for research equipment. It did not take long for an offer to come from the **Historical Society** to make some space available for us at their museum. This offer was gratefully accepted. Unfortunately, it may be much more difficult to raise funds to enable members to do research at the museum. Family history research, like most other hobbies is not cheap if it is to be done properly. If we are able to raise finances from outside sources it reduces the need for members to contribute all the time. One initiative is the application for a grant under the "Year of the Older Person" scheme.

A third meeting was held in our new home with several members of the **Historical Society** in attendance. President Val Amery extended a very

warm welcome to everybody. It was apparent at this meeting that our group was going to go ahead successfully.

In order to leave the monthly meetings free to do what we are here for—family history—a sub-committee was formed to handle the business side of the group. In addition to Pat and John, the sub-committee consists of Marge Hansen, Lindsay Braden, Jill Jiles, Harry Davies, Geoffrey Holbery-Morgan, and Betty and Kevin Vanderstoel.

Kevin volunteered to do a quarterly newsletter and that it would be included in the **Historical Society** newsletter to let all members into the secrets of family history, hoping the majority will get the bug and join us.

To the uninitiated genealogy is about history concerning your own family. Finding out who they were, what they did for a living, where they came from, when and why they came to Australia. Of course, if you are lucky enough to find a convict, they didn't have much choice in the matter! So you can see it's much more than just doing a family tree, which consists of only names and dates. It is about building a family story from the amazing amount of information that is available.

But before you decide to start there are three things to consider: --

- **You will become addicted.**
- **It is not cheap to do properly**
- **And you will find a skeleton in the cupboard.**

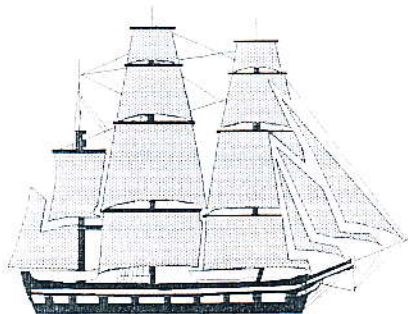
THE P.R.O.

Once you decide to research your family you will be surprised just how much information is available from various sources. One of these being the **PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE** in Cherry Lane, Laverton. This office holds only Victorian information such as Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) indexes, shipping records, probates and wills, some police records and a great deal of other interesting information.

Unfortunately the P.R.O. is on the move to the Victorian Archives Centre which will be situated in North Melbourne. Below is a timetable of the move and where the records will be housed over the next couple of years.

| LOCATION | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Victorian Archives Centre. | Records moved from Laverton to V.A.C. | Records held | Records held | Search room opens early 2002 |
| Laverton | Search Room Open | Search room closes Early 2000. | Closed | Closed |
| Melbourne | Search | Extended | Extended | Closed |
| Archives Centre | Room Open | search room opens early 2000 | search room open | |
| Casselden Place | | | | |

Casselden Place is situated at 2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, which is the corner of Spring Street., not a very convenient place to get to from here, so the more research that can be done in 1999 the better.



RESEARCH FACILITIES

We are fortunate that Geelong is well served with research centres such as, Deakin University Woolstores Campus, Geelong Historical Centre, and the Mormon Library. The first two have a variety of, mainly Australian, records. The Mormon Library has more overseas information. Until we are able to build up our own micro-fiche library these are the best options for research.



MEMBERSHIP

Subscription for year 1st June to 31st May
 Single or Family.....\$12
 This is in addition to Historical Society membership of\$ 8
 Subscriptions include four issues of the Historical Society's and Family History Group's newsletters.



BEGINNING RESEARCH

The golden rule is that you start with the known and work towards the unknown. The best known fact at the moment is yourself, so write down your own name, if a married woman, your maiden name, plus any relevant dates such as birth and marriage, then add your parents details, making sure always to use the female's maiden name.

The next step is the details of both pairs of grandparents, if these are known. Now you have a three generation family tree. If there are gaps it may now be necessary to get the relevant certificates. Always get a full certificate rather than an extract.

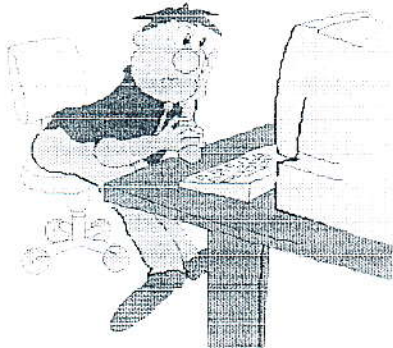
Victorian certificates are the most comprehensive of all the states. The birth certificate gives details as follows:- when and where born; name & profession of the father; his age & birthplace; when and where married; issue (other children) living or deceased, mother's maiden name, age and birthplace; Signature,

description and residence of informant; when registered and where.

Marriage:-when and where married; names of parties; condition of parties, whether single, widow or widower; date of deceased wife or husband and any children living or dead; birthplace, profession, ages, residence; names of parents and profession and other important details such as the minister's name and names of the witnesses.

Death:-when and where died; name and profession; sex and age; cause; duration of last illness and details of doctor; names of parents and professions; when and where buried and by whom; where born, and how long in the Australian Colonies stating which one; if the deceased was married, where, at what age and to whom; children in order of birth, names and ages.

Of these certificates Death is the most important because of the details it contains, but also the most unreliable, depending on the informant. Birth is usually correct although dates and even names have been found to be wrong. The Marriage certificate is usually correct although ages were sometimes changed for various reasons.



KEEP LOOKING

To give an example of persistent researching I had been trying to locate the arrival and death details of my maternal Great Grandfather, Patrick Kirby for about eight years. I obtained his marriage certificate dated 30-5-1870 which indicated he married Isabella Pitcher at St. Francis Cathedral, Melbourne. I also obtained the Birth Certificates of his three children in 1871--72 and 75 and the Death Certificate of

his wife in 1881 aged only 27 years. From family information I knew his three children were raised in North Fitzroy, by their maternal grandmother. From these certificates I found that Patrick was born in County Clare, Ireland.

This was my last contact with Patrick. I searched the convict records and interstate B.D.M's and although I found some Patrick Kirbys, I had no proof that any were mine.

As the family lived in very poor conditions back in the 1850--1900 era, in the more squalid areas of Carlton and Fitzroy, I decided to research the Petty Sessions indexes at the Laverton P.R.O. The first group consists of 9 volumes from 1862--1888. In these, I first found details of my Grandmother's sister being found guilty of housebreaking in 1885 aged 24 years. She was sentenced to 12 months gaol and had to spend the first Monday of every month in solitary confinement. The reason for this was not given. This lady lived to her eighties, raising a large family and was never in trouble again.

The big find was that in 1874 Patrick had been arrested and charged with "obtaining money with threats". He was found not guilty. The most important thing was that there was a great deal of personal information given, such as his description, not unlike that given on convict indents. It gave his arrival details in Adelaide in 1858, the name of the ship, and that he had travelled with a sister and two younger brothers, he was aged 18 years.

I then rechecked the South Australian indexes and was able to confirm that a death listed in 1907 was my Patrick. I sent for that certificate, and discovered that he had remarried and died in Clare S.A.

I now knew that Patrick was born in Clare, Ireland around 1832--1837 he arrived in Adelaide aboard the immigrant ship " Sir Thomas Gresham " on 5th. June 1857 after leaving Plymouth, 27th. November the previous year. The ship

carried 227 passengers, mainly from Ireland. Also on board were Catherine Kirby 30 years, a servant, Michael aged 13 years and Patrick, aged 8 years, Patrick Snr. was aged 26 years, all were listed as unmarried. At this stage I do not know the relationship of these people.

In recent research, I discovered that Patrick settled in Clare S.A. in 1882 (the year after the death of his wife) where he opened his own business as a contractor, for the council. He remained there until 1887, when he became the licensee of The Narridy Hotel. Narridy is a small town about 60 kilometres north of Clare. He remained in that position until 1893. He then returned to Clare, again being listed in the postal directories as a contractor. He stayed in Clare until his death in 1907. He is buried in the Catholic cemetery in the grounds of the Seven Hills winery, which is still run by the Jesuit monks.

Research in Clare revealed that Patrick married Juliana McMahon (O'Brien), a 27 year old widow in 1887. Patrick gave his age as 45 years, but was in fact about 8 years older, he also listed himself as a bachelor, obviously he kept his earlier life a secret.

That year the couple took over the Narridy hotel, Juliana holding the licence and wrongly being listed as Julian. In 1893 they moved back to Clare into a house at 14 Agnes Street, this house is still standing, not like the hotel which was delicensed on the 7th of June 1907, it was then used as a shop which sold confectionery and soft drinks, and then as a residence, it was finally demolished in 1996, all that is left now is the front step and the framework of the cellar.

It appears to me that Patrick did not know exactly when he was born, because of the variations on certificates----

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Shipping records indicate | 1831 |
| Marriage (1) indicates | 1840 |
| Charles Patrick's birth | 1837 |
| Marriage (2) indicates | 1845 |
| Death indicates | 1837 |

Research :

Have seen Shipping passenger list
Have---Marriage Cert.Melbourne
Have---Death Cert, Adelaide
Have seen police charge sheet
Melbourne
Have seen Marriage Cert (2) Clare S. A.
Have seen Title of Narridy Hotel
Have ---Birth Certs of children
Have ---Death Cert of wife

This story indicates that as long as you keep looking something will usually turn up, and don't be afraid of the police and court records.

I visited Clare S.A. some time back and was amazed by the amount of information held by the local historical society, I saw the remains of the hotel at Narridy, the house he lived in and the graves of he and his wife.

LATE NEWS

**Research Room will be open between
10 am & 2pm Mondays & Fridays
For Mondays ring Pat on 5289-6686
For Fridays ring Kevin on 5263-1981**

ABBREVIATIONS

In modern life people now tend to abbreviate words into letters, genealogists are the same. Below are listed are some of the shortcuts you will encounter during your research.

B.D.M---Birth. Death. Marriage
G.S.V.---Genealogical Society of Victoria
G.U.M.---Genealogists Using Micro-
Computers
A.I.G.S.---Australian Institute of
Genealogical Studies
P.R.O.---Public Records Office
L.D.S.---Latter Day Saints (Mormons)
T.O.L.---Ticket of Leave
G.R.D.--Genealogical Research Directory
I.G.I---International Genealogical Index